CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

CUG NEWS

Computer Users' Group
April, 1982 Vol 4 No 8

PARTY PARTY PARTY

We of CUG realize how hard it is to find a good party after exams. After all, who among us can afford to throw a real extravaganza on a student's budget? Well, as usual we have the perfect solution: come to the CUG Annual Year-end <System Crash> Party, Saturday, May 1, in La Cave room at the Chateaubriand Holiday Inn, 6500 Cote de Liesse(Hickmore exit). We promise, nay, swear that you'll have a good time, since there will be free food and a cash bar. Just to make things a little more interesting, this year we are actually giving away a computer! Yes, indeed, you might be the lucky winner of a Sinclair ZX-81 personal computer, thoughtfully provided by the kindly proprietors of Futur Byte on Phillips Square. Just hook this little baby up to the nearest TV and away you go... leaping tall BASIC programs in a single keystroke. Think how much fun it'll be testing out your hard-earned algorithms at home.... not fun, you say? Well, how about moving-graphic games? Be the first on your block to die of Space Invaders Wrist!

But you can't win if you don't attend, and you can't attend if you don't buy tickets! Tickets are available at the CUG office (H-983) for a modest $6.00 (and an even more modest $5.00 if you're already a member). Dress will be semi-formal (jeans & tuxedos?). Festivities will begin at 8:00 PM, with or without you. There are only 100 places, so hurry!

T-Shirts

We still have a number of CUG T-shirts available. These stylish garments are suitable for every occasion, from affairs of state to wrapping fish. They come in assorted colours and sizes, with a choice of two designs: the famous "Coca-Cola Ripoff" and the fabulous CUG logo. At a mere $5.00 a crack, they may be the year's best fashion buy. Come by the office (H-983) if you're interested (or even if you're not).

Election Results

MONTREAL (UPI) - Results are in for the CUG elections. The winners would appear to be:

Ben Riga - President (acclaimed)
Chris Ellingsen - Vice President (acclaimed)
Dave Parks - Secretary (acclaimed)
John B. Anderson - Treasurer (acclaimed)

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS
1455 DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD. WEST
MONTREAL, QUEBEC H3G 1M8

Members-at-Large:
Sue Bates
Larry Cadloff
Neil Gardner
Dean Hummel
Ruby Loo

The new executives are expected to take power in a bloodless coup on May 1. Unconfirmed reports say that dancing in the streets is widespread.

Paper Training

We just wanted to remind all three of you hard-working students out there that CUG sells pristine white, 9 1/2" x 11" tractor-feed paper, with 1/2" tear-off margins, for the measly sum of $1.75 per 100 sheets. This is a great bargain (compared to the cost of gold leaf). Imagine how impressed your markers will be when they see your last assignments handed in neatly printed on crisp white paper! Who knows, it migh turn a "D-" into a "C"!

Light Bulb Joke

- How many computer scientists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

- None, it's a hardware problem.

Thanks

We extend a grateful "thank you" to the noble volunteer programmers-on-duty (better known as PODs) who sacrificed many an evening watching "Mork and Mindy" for a better cause: namely, bailing all those students out of hot water. We realize how rough it's been, and so we have commisioned Donald Knuth and E. W. Dijkstra to build a virtual monument to the memory of those who suffered: Ron Shutler, Ng Chee Beng, Louis Lanthier, Nelson Asinowski, Franco Carlacci, Martin Chan, and (occasionally) Richard Farrell. The virtual monument may be viewed in the virtual space between your virtual ears.

Soapbox

Soapbox is an open forum for computer user's to present their views. The opinion's expressed are those of the author and are not neccessarily those of C.U.G. This month's article is from a secret group know as TSE (Time-Sharing Enforcers). This group believes that Time-Sharing is a lost concept among users' at Concordia and are fighting to return meaning to Time-Sharing.

Dear CUGgies,

A recent survey on the use of the 9th floor terminals has yielded the following observations:

1. Statistics have shown that the two most popular debugging methods are:

-debugging by osmosis : where the user stares at the screen forever as if hypnotized

-debugging by iteration : which uses the following algorithm

```
while not perfect do
    remove an error
    compile and execute
    cross your fingers
    print a listing
continue
```

These two methods are hazardous to your health. Cases of eyestrain, sore fingers, headaches, and aching backs have been reported.

The least popular debugging method (a lost art) is the most painless and productive method. This involves

getting a listing
logging off
taking an aspirin (optional)
correcting errors
coming back next day

2. On physical and verbal violence (or how to treat a terminal) :

-R___'s Method is often used. This involves beating the keyboard in order that the characters will be correctly understood by the computer (cost of repairs are paid by faculty)

-Sexual harassment such as sweettalking, kissing and petting the terminals do not guarantee better results

-Swearing is ignored by terminal but may antagonize other users

Frustration is a vicious circle. The more frustrated you get at the terminal, the more frustrated the terminal gets at you!

Different solutions have been proposed in order to enforce Time-Sharing. The most favoured solution is for a user to deposit a quarter for 15 minutes use of terminal. Another solution is to introduce an accounting system in the computer. In order to prevent these (or any other) solutions from being implemented, please... LOG OFF. T.S.E Time-Sharing Enforcers

```
+--------------------------------+
!              /BYE              !
+--------------------------------+
```

This is the last issue for this semester. We hope that you survive exams undamaged... enjoy the summer while it lasts, and good luck to graduates!